

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Precipitated calcium carbonate having a secondary particle diameter of 1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , each secondary particle consisting of flocculated primary particles of spindle-shaped calcium carbonate having a long diameter of 0.5 to 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , a short diameter of 0.1 to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and an aspect ratio of 3 or more, wherein the secondary particles have a BET specific surface area is in the range of from 8 to 20  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and the pore volume is in the range of 1.5 to 3.5  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ .

2. (Withdrawn and previously presented) A method for producing the precipitated calcium carbonate as defined in claim 1, wherein, in a first stage, carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide containing gas is blown into a calcium hydroxide slurry having a calcium hydroxide concentration of 100 to 400 g/L obtained by wet slaking calcined lime whose 4 N hydrochloric acid activity (value at 3 minutes) is adjusted to 150 to 400 mL for reaction until the carbonation rate is 50 to 85%, then 1 to 20 % by volume of the calcium hydroxide slurry is added, and carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide containing gas is then introduced to initiate a second stage of the reaction.

3. (Previously presented) Precipitated calcium carbonate manufactured by the producing method of Claim 2.

4. (Previously presented) The precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 3, wherein the BET specific surface area is in the range of 8 to 20  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and the pore volume is in the range of 1.5 to 3.5  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ .

5. (Previously presented) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 1.

6. (Original) A loaded paper, which contains the filler for loading paper according to Claim 5.

7. (Original) A loaded paper, which contains 5 to 50 parts by weight of the

filler for loading paper according to Claim 5 based on pulp material as 100 parts by weight.

8. (Previously presented) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 3.

9. (Previously presented) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 4.